

Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
April 13, 2011
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

Report Focus

- 12th Monthly Report to PS&NS
- Brownout Plan
 - Workload and Response Time Statistics Update
 - Training and Inspection Impacts Adjustments
- Lifeguard Budget Reductions
 - UCSD Lifeguard Contract Update
 - Training Impacts Adjustments

Brownout Plan Refresher

- Brownouts Defined
 - Temporary closure of 0-8 fire engines per day
 - Implemented in the 13 stations with more than one response unit
- Brownouts implemented on February 6, 2010 as a budget reduction measure to save \$11.5M in overtime
- Each brown-out unit saves approximately \$1.4M annually
- Today's report covers 4/1/10 through 3/31/11
 - 107,947 emergency incidents during this period
 - 3,293 fires
 - 92,911 medical
 - 11,743 other

Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines = **38% - 100%**
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = **90%** Fire-Rescue Interim Target = **55%**
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **55%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **53%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **29% - 86%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **24% - 80%**
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **5:03**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **5:10**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **3:47-6:11**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **3:52 - 6:42**

Effective Fire Force

- Defined as the number of firefighters required to perform operations at a typical single family dwelling fire
 - 14-15 firefighters depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
 - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 72%
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **84%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **79%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **50% - 100%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **38% - 100%**
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **6.98 minutes**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **7.38 minutes**

Non-Emergency Impacts and Adjustments

- Reduced Manipulative Training Opportunities
 - Fewer units makes it difficult to go out-of-service for training
- Training Adjustments Made
 - Units allowed out-of-service at one time increased from 12 to 14
 - Units in Department-wide training sessions decreased from 5 to 3
 - More training delivered at fire stations or online
- Delays in Completing Fire Inspections
 - Fewer units are busier with emergency responses
 - New technology (Field Collection Unit) Program instituted this month
 - Department anticipates that real-time collection of reporting data will improve overdue inspection monitoring and correction
- Inspection Adjustments Made
 - Light duty staff assigned when available

Black's Beach

- UCSD contract began on March 14th
 - Within the first three weeks there were 17 water rescues effected
 - Many were UCSD Students on Spring Break
 - “We would have been goners if you weren’t there” quote from one of the rescued
- We greatly appreciate UCSD and CM Lightner partnering to restore this beach coverage



Lifeguard Reductions

- Remaining Impacts
 - Reduction of Relief guards
 - Reduction of Lifeguard II Training Coordinator
 - Reduction of Sergeant assigned to Scheduling
 - Reduction of Marine Safety Lieutenant
 - Reduction of Overtime Budget
- Non-Personnel
 - Overlap Training Wednesdays Eliminated
 - River Rescue Team Training Budget Cut by 50%



LG Training Impacts from Reductions

- Loss/Reduction of Training Opportunities
 - Significant changes to Winter training plan implemented
 - Pre-shift and in-service training modules developed
 - Winter training cycle has ended
 - Reviewing impacts of loss/reduction of training over the next 90 days

Questions?